

(Fortune-hunting)
Amusing,
punning letter re.
a hidden fortune
in tin
F

London / 52 Strand Hall 1

Ans - Sept. 2. 1846 -

My friend -

Science

Minerals

Your letter of July 30th is at hand
and contents noted. I have as yet
found no clue to the labyrinth in the
centre of which you think it possible there
may be a million or two of dollars ~~and~~
"subject to your order", - but I have set on
foot (and if necessary will set on horseback)
~~the~~ ~~the~~ suitable plans for finding out
all that can be found out, and as soon
as anything comes to light, especially if
it be anything in the shape of tin, you
shall be promptly informed. I fear it will
turn out but a "wild-goose chase" (no
disrespect to the Chases I nevertheless I
will follow it up with the speed of a
Gilpin and the nose of a hound. - If I
succeed in ferreting out the expected millions

I shall cry out halvses! And of course you
will poney ^{literally of} over what I shall have poneyed
out (i.e. sought out with a poney) in which case
I shall enlarge the Pioneer, and go it with a
perfect rush! The very idea of the thing makes
my blood run as it used to when I was a young
man. However I'll not get too deep into the
mysteries of chicken-counting for the present, -
especially as I haven't yet so much as an egg
to start with.)

You see I am still in London (though
not so "still" as I might be) and I am in
hopes by the Cambria to send some letters of
more interest (they could not well be less)
than those you may have seen in the Pioneer -

Make my respects to all inquiring friends

and believe me

Yrs truly

A. Clapp,